

**THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
CLEVELAND 6. OHIO**

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FOR RELEASE

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Director of The Cleveland Museum of Art,
William M. Milliken announced accession of the painting, "The Baptism of Christ"

in its February, 1951 Bulletin, as a gift of Hanna Fund. It was painted by Tintoretto

(Jacopo Robusti) Italian, Venetian School, 1518-1594 in his mature manner.

It is a huge canvas, 66½x99 inches. Hanna Fund purchased it from Paul Sachs, professor emeritus of fine arts of Harvard University, who had it for a number of years in his collection at Cambridge. Previously it was in the Collection of W. G. Markham, Esq., in England.

Henry Sayles Francis, curator of paintings of the Museum, describes it:

"Striking both in size and color. The Christ is represented as standing with His feet in the waters of the river Jordan, His head bowed, His hands crossed upon His breast, nude save for the loincloth which is of rich, rose-madder color. To the right, on a steep bank from which water is cascading down, stands a monumental figure of John the Baptist, holding in his left hand a long staff and leaning his left elbow upon the statue of a river god. In his outstretched right arm he holds a bowl of water over the head of Christ. On the other bank of the river are two angels hovering beneath a tree and holding the blue

mantle of Christ: in the upper center is the dove

Mantle of Christ; in the upper center is the dove from which brilliant rays spread out to form a mandorla, around the edges of which are cherubim."

Tintoretto painted several versions of the same subject. One is in the Prado, Madrid, others in San Pietro Martire at Murano, in San Silvestro in Venice.

The artist received his nickname, "little tinter" ~~because of his wonderful color~~ because his father was a well-to-do dyer. He had little formal training and Titian is said jealously to have rebuffed him, whereupon the younger artist bravely formed his own style dramatising everyday human emotions in contrast to the traditional handling of subjects by the older man.

The Tintoretto came to the Museum as one of a series of extraordinary gifts, all Venetian in connection: "Portrait of a Nobleman" by Lorenzo Lotto, c.1480-1556; and ~~"The Prelate"~~ "Annunciation" by Paolo Veronese, 1528-1588, also Hanna Fund gift;⁵ "Prelate" by Titian, c.1477-1576, purchased through the Mr and Mrs William H. Marlatt Fund; "The Lamentation" tapestry woven at Ferrara after the design of Cosimo Tura, 1430-1495; two bronze sculptures by Danese Cattaneo, 1509-1573 and Riccio, 1470-1532 purchased through the John L. Severance Fund; a series of woodcuts, "Bird's-Eye View of Venice" by Jacopo de'Barbari, c.1450-1516, purchased from The J.H. Wade Fund; and finally two great paintings of Horatius' Defence of Rome by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, 1696-1770, purchased through the Mr and Mrs Marlatt Fund.